

NEW BROWNFIELD SITE ASSESSMENT GRANT APPLICATIONS ARE HERE!

Our updated application forms and instructions for round seven of DNR's Brownfield Site Assessment Grants (SAG) are now available. This year's applications are due **October 20**. Local governments may use these grants to jump start investigation and redevelopment of brownfields. The grants can help determine whether a property is contaminated, investigate the type of contamination, remove tanks and demolish buildings, all of which prepare properties for redevelopment.

This year we want to help applicants avoid past problems that have caused some SAG applications to be ineligible for funding. We know that local governments must be careful with their time and money, so we encourage you to apply for SAG funds at the right property, i.e., one that is eligible. So whether you're a local government preparing your own application, or an environmental professional working on behalf of a local government, here are some common pitfalls we've found regarding eligibility:

1. Property Eligibility - the applicant must show that the property meets all these criteria:

- ✓ be one or more contiguous sites (*though they may have different owners*);
- ✓ have been used for industry or commerce (e.g., *not a residential or school property with no industrial/commercial history*);
- ✓ be abandoned, idle, or underused (*if the property is still in use, the applicant must show that it is more suitable for other community needs*);
- ✓ have actual or perceived environmental contamination (*if contamination is not confirmed, the applicant must provide information on prior uses of the property sufficient to show that contamination likely exists; asbestos and lead paint in buildings is not considered environmental contamination*); and
- ✓ be a location where expansion or redevelopment is being adversely affected by known or perceived contamination (e.g., *the known or suspected contamination is significant enough to inhibit expansion or redevelopment*).

2. Causer of Contamination - the persons or companies that caused the known or perceived contamination must be:

- ✓ unknown (*but there is known or potential soil or groundwater contamination that inhibits redevelopment*);
- ✓ unable to be located (*and the applicant describes its efforts to locate all potential or known causers of contamination*), or
- ✓ financially unable to pay for the grant activities (*and the applicant shows its efforts to locate and document the assets of all known or potential causers of contamination*).

Here are some examples of **general** situations where the application was **ineligible** based on "causer" information. Each situation is unique and will require documentation by the applicant and review by DNR in order to make a site-specific eligibility determination.

- ✓ The applicant owns a former industrial/commercial property, and the applicant's use of the property has contributed to contamination.
- ✓ An operating, viable business currently owns or leases the property and the business is suspected of contributing to contamination at the property.
- ✓ The current owner of the property is bankrupt, but one or more previous property owners may have contributed to the contamination and are financially viable.

For more help in preparing a successful SAG application, please follow the step-by-step instructions we have provided at <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/aw/rr/brownfields/sag.htm>